



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

March 14, 2007

Ms. Sara Brown, Treasurer  
Ohio Republican Party State  
Central & Executive Committee  
211 S. Fifth Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Response Due Date:**  
**April 13, 2007**

Identification Number: C00162339

Reference: 30 Day Post-General Report (10/19/06 – 11/27/06)

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above.** An itemization of the information needed follows:

-Schedule B supporting Lines 21(b) and 30(b) of your report discloses \$13,252.68 in activity identified as MEMO entries that do not appear to correspond with any itemized transaction(s). Please be advised, a memo entry is used to disclose additional information about an itemized transaction and the amount of a memo entry is not included in the total receipts or disbursements for the report. Please amend your report to provide clarifying information regarding this activity.

-Schedule A supporting Line 15 of your report discloses an offset to an operating expenditure(s) totaling \$3,632.68 from "Lawnfield Inn & Suites," "Mr. Michael L. Murry" and "Ms. Catherine Yonkura"; however, your report(s) does not appear to disclose a disbursement to this entity. Please provide clarifying information regarding this activity and amend your report(s) if necessary.

-Please provide the date(s) the activity occurred for the entries cited as "Reimburse for GOTV Phone Calls" totaling \$5,576.22 reported on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. A debt of \$500 or less is reportable once it has been outstanding 60 days from the

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date incurred (the date of the transaction, not the date the bill is received). Furthermore, if these debts have been outstanding for 60 days or more, please amend the appropriate report(s) to provide a Schedule D.

-Schedule A supporting Line 12 discloses a transfer(s)-in from "Republican National Committee." Schedule B supporting Line 30b reflects payments for "GOTV LITERATURE PRINTING," "non-allocable exempt postage," "non-allocable exempt printing," "postage for non-allocable exempt postage" and "PRINTING OF NON-ALLOCABLE EXEMPT MAIL." Please be advised that a state or local party committee may pay for campaign materials (such as pins, posters, bumper stickers and yard signs) that are distributed by volunteers in connection with activity on behalf of the party's nominees in a general election and for voter drive activity conducted on behalf of the party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. Payments for this type of activity are exempt from the definition of a contribution or expenditure if certain conditions are met. The conditions are that no public advertising may be used, including distribution by direct mail (mailings by a commercial vendor or from commercial lists); all funds used for the activity must be permitted under the Act; none of the funds used may have been designated for a particular candidate; and finally, payments for the activity may not be made from transfers-in from the national committee to specifically fund the activity. For further guidance, please refer to 11 CFR §§100.87 and 100.147 and to the Campaign Guide for Party Committees.

Please clarify the nature of the transfer(s)-in and subsequent payments for the aforementioned disbursement(s). If the activity disclosed on your report does not meet the definition of "exempt" activity as described above and if any portion of the expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified candidates, that amount must be disclosed on Schedule B, E or F supporting Line 23, 24 or 25 of the Detailed Summary Page as appropriate.

-Schedule B supporting Lines 21(b) and 30(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "ABSENTEE BALLOTS POSTAGE," "ABSENTEE POSTAGE FOR WOOD COUNTY," "ABSENTEE VOTING POSTAGE," "COUNTY PRINTING OF SLATE CARD," "COUNTY SLATE CARD PRINTING," "MAIL CENTER PHONE LINE," "NON-ALLOCABLE EXEMPT POSTAGE," "PHONE BANK HARD LINE," "phone bank hard line-Delaware Cnty-5679," "phone bank line-Delaware Cnty-5679," "phone line for mail center-non-allocable," "phones for county phonebank," "printing/postage of absentee ballots," "printing of absentee mailers," "PRINTING OF COUNTY SLATE CARD," "printing of

Franklin Cnty absentee ballo," "VICTORY CENTER PHONE LINES," and "VICTORY PHONE CENTER PHONE LINES" which is categorized as Federal Election Activity and therefore, may require the disclosure of the candidate(s) this activity should be attributed to. Expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s).

Further, please be advised that public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please clarify if this activity meets the definition of Federal Election Activity or if it contains express advocacy and amend your report to properly disclose this activity, if necessary.

-Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) B supporting Line 21(b) of your report to clarify the following description(s): "GOTV for Victory event 11-01-06." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of your report discloses one or more disbursements to "Mr. George Abdalla," "AT&T-AURORA," "Buckeye Fabric Profit Sharing Plan," "Byrne Services LLC," "Centurytel," "Mr. Ted Christoupulos," "Cincinnati Bell," "Depalma Corporation," "Mr. Mark Eicher," "Mr. John Hall," "LEWIS FAMILY TRUST," "Mr. Pete Lucas," "New Love Realty Inc.," "Promanco Inc.," "Road Runner LLC," "Schafer Dobrunz LLC," "Scioto County Republican Party," "Shai Commercial Ltd.," "TAYLOR COMMONS PARTNERS," "Time Warner Cable-3," "Tusco. Net," "Verizon North" and "VERIZON WIRELESS #2" and several corresponding memo entries detailing the portion of the disbursement allocated to each federal candidate. However, the sum of the corresponding memo entries on Line 30(b) does not equal each respective payment. If part of each disbursement was for your committee and not a federal candidate, please indicate that amount in addition to the amounts

allocated to each federal candidate. Please amend your report to clarify these discrepancies.

-Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "OH College Republicans payroll," "OH Federation of Women payroll," "OH Fed of Republican Women payroll," "operations staff health insurance" and "payroll". Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

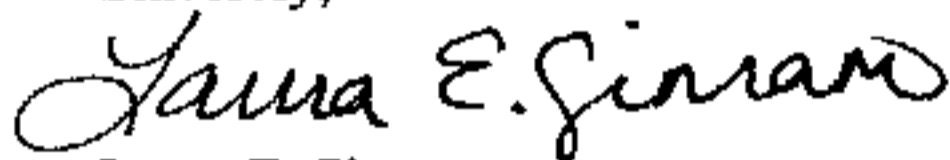
-Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "ABSENTEE BALLOTS POSTAGE," "ABSENTEE POSTAGE FOR WOOD COUNTY," "ABSENTEE VOTING POSTAGE" and "GOTV for Victory event 11-01-06" which appears to be disclosed on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. Please be advised that Voter Identification, Generic Campaign and Get-out-the-vote activity conducted in connection with an election in which one or more candidates for Federal office appear on the ballot is considered to be Federal Election Activity. 11 CFR §100.24 Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity on Line 30(b) or provide clarification regarding this activity.

**Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter.** Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.** Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the

committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694- 1157.

Sincerely,



Laura E. Sinram

Senior Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

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